

ABSTRACT

The invention relates a method of stably and highly efficiently producing a three-dimensional molded article of a fiber-reinforced composite material having a three-dimensional shape, uniform quality, and free from wrinkles by press molding a plurality of prepregs cut out in a predetermined shape and also to a molded article.

In the production method, at least one set of a partially separated flap (31c to 33c) and a residual portion (31d to 33d) are formed for each prepreg by forming a plurality of notches or cutouts for each cut-out prepreg (31 to 33). The respective prepregs are laminating at predetermined portions of a press die (10) using the partially separated flaps (31c to 33c) of the respective prepregs as positioning parts, and the partially separated flaps (31c to 33c) of the prepregs pressed to a three-dimensional shape. Next, end edge parts of the residual portions (31d to 33d) are laid over end edge parts of the partially separated flaps (31c to 33c) and pressed to obtain a molded article of a fiber-reinforced composite material having a desired three-dimensional shape as a whole. Employment of an epoxy resin for a matrix resin composition to be used for the prepreg further improves the production efficiency.